Dodgers still have Astros' number, 6-1

Victory keeps L.A. just ahead of Giants in race

By Lee Barnathan
Signal Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Pennant fever in July: Catch it!

Knowing there were just 12 games remaining before the Aug. 12 strike date, the Dodgers and Astros, both in tight division races, engaged themselves, keeping their minds on the field and trying to ignore the scoreboard Saturday night.

For the Dodgers, the Giants had already won, so a win would keep them in first place in the West. For the Astros, Cincinnati had won, so a win would keep them closer to first in the Central. And first place is where you want to be should the season be interrupted.

The result: Houston passed the game to Los Angeles, which stayed in first for the 70th consecutive day by winning 6-1 before 50,880 customers. It was the Dodgers' seventh victory in eight games against the Astros.

This night also was when the Dodgers brought out some of their heroes from the past to play a three-inning game. Steve Garvey was back at first, joined by Ron Cey at third, Bill Russell at shortstop, Reggie Smith in right field and Joe Ferguson behind the plate. But there were other greats: Don Newcombe, "Sweet" Lou Johnson and Tommy Davis, to name a few. Even Tommy Lasorda got into the act, getting two hits and pitching an inning.

Were the fans watching that game wishing for those days? The times when the Dodgers regularly winning division titles, pennants or World Series? When the save statistic and bullpens that blow leads weren't as important?

Nothing close to that has happened since 1988, but here were the Dodgers, slimly holding on to the lead over the hated Giants, just like in the old days of Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds.

On this night, the Dodgers got the big break. Houston rookie catcher Tony Eusebio allowed a passed ball with the bases loaded in the sixth that opened up a tight game.

Monroe spoils Mintey Jr's return

By Tim Haddock
Signal Staff Writer

SAUGUS - Sean Monroe picked a good time to win his first race of the season at Saugus Speedway.

Monroe won the fourth race of the Frontier Toyota Sportsman Championship Series and $2,500 Saturday night, spoiling Pat Mintey Jr.'s return to Saugus Speedway.

Mintey Jr., who hasn't raced at Saugus for more than a month, was as high as third place in the 75-lap feature, but tangled up with Gary Sigman in lap 60 and fell out of contention.

Sean Woodside of Saugus, who won three of the last four Sportsman feature races at Saugus Speedway, was also as high as third place during the race, but spun out in lap 66 and finished last.

There are two races remaining in the Frontier Series.

Sal Rose spun out into a few cars causing a yellow flag delay in lap 24.

Woodside also spun out earlier in the race, but managed to come back into the top three before spinning out of the race and out of contention.

Woodside won the Sportsman heat race with Nick Joanides finishing second.

Rick Crow of Canyon Country won the 30-lap Grand American Modified feature race, by taking an early lead and holding off a serging Dave Phipps.

Phipps, who finished second, and Dave Blankenship both made Crow earn his victory Saturday night before 4,894 fans.

Blankenship raced as high as second place in the middle laps, but couldn't hold off Phipps.

Kelly Colgan, the pole leader, finished fourth.

In lap 28, Jim Holtz of Acton spun out for the second time in the race and Robert Rice hit him head on. No one was injured in the small collision, but Rice had trouble restarting his car.

In lap 12, Holtz spun out, causing only a slight delay.

Colgan won the Grand Am heat race earlier in the night.

Dean Grizzaffi won the 25-lap Street Stock oval main event by taking the lead in lap 20.

Troy Terry led the race for the first 20 laps before Grizzaffi passed him and won his second feature race of the season.

Richard Russo of Newhall, who started the race in second place, lost a wheel in lap 10 and withdrew from the race.

In the final lap of the race, Johnny Vitale of Santa Clarita got turned around in turn one, but caused little disturbance in finishing the race.

David Ford won the 15-lap Street Stock B main event. The top four racers in the B main qualified for the feature race.

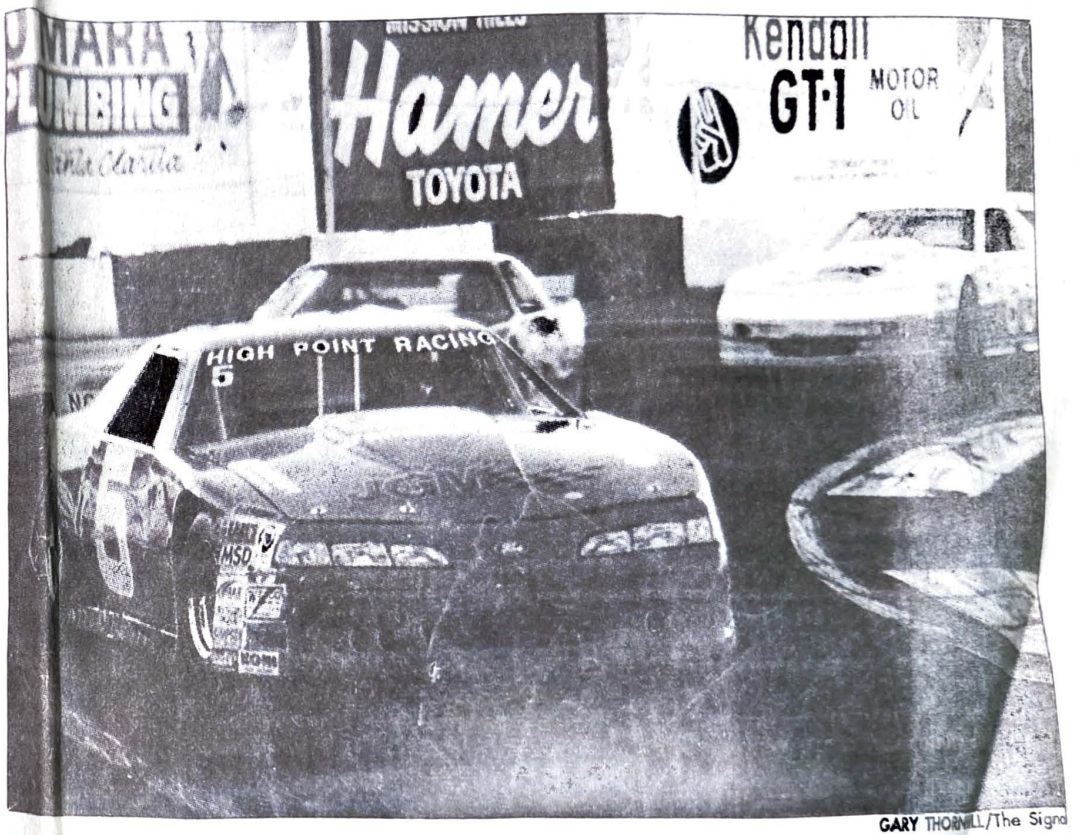
The other top four finishers were Kar Day, Jeff Holmes and Mike Gilmore.

Craig Benner won the Street Stock heat race earlier in the night. Grizzaffi finished second.

John Schultz of Valencia won the 15-lap figure eight feature race.

Richard Minor won the figure eight heat race, while Dana Moore finished second.

Rice won the Grand Am trophy dash.



GARY THORNILL/The Signal

Chatsworth's Tim Huddleston (5) comes out of turn four in first place en route to winning the Sportsman division trophy dash Saturday night at Saugus Speedway.